

Native American Federal Employees Council

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2004

Board Members: Ruby Pippenger, Chair, NOAA NWS NRC
Crystal Wallace, Vice-Chair, USDA/NITC
Robin K. Hatfield, Secretary, FDA
Tonya Stonham, Alt-Secretary, DHS

In Attendance: Members (see end of report)

Where: USDA Facility, Beacon Street, Kansas City, MO

Opening and Minutes:

Ruby Pippenger called the meeting to order. Introductions were made all around. Minutes from the December 2003 meeting are pending.

NAFEC Business:

Announcements– Ruby Pippenger introduced the new officers for 2004. The officers are listed above.

Donna Stone presented the End of Year Report for NAFEC emphasizing the Council's involvement at local and national levels. A heartfelt **"Thank You"** all around to Donna Stone for her services as NAFEC Chairwoman.

NAFEC/FEB members will be provided with a calender/ schedule of events to give to their supervisors

FEB Business:

General: Ruby Pippenger attended the FEB training in December 2003. She reported that the processes/ definitions regarding the FEB and its diversity subcouncils are changing. Intercouncil meetings and activities are encouraged.

Romell Cooks (2d Vice-Chair of the KCFEB) has advised the councils to develop and implement special programs for incorporation into information packets. Topics of interest to both the NAFEC and the BFEC would be the heritage and history of Black Freedmen. Joe Gray has a presentation about the Buffalo Soldiers and Native Americans. Jana Moynihan has information regarding the role of black fur trappers as the liason between the Indian tribes and the white trappers.

KCFEB:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Related Activities

The Black Federal Employees' Council is holding its Lunch and Learn Program on January 15, 2004. Although the cut-off date for registration was on 01/05/2004, diversity subcouncils may still register **on-line** at the FEB website. There is limited seating and the training fee is \$30.00 per person.

Web Address: **kc.feb.gsa.gov**

Federal Women's Program Essay Contest

The FWP is holding an essay contest open to grades 1-12. The theme is "Women - Inspiring Hope and Possibility." The cut-off date for entry is 01/30/2004. The members of NAFEC and other diversity subcouncils are being asked to provide volunteers to assist in the selection and grading of the students' submissions. The grading/ selection starts at 8:00 a.m. on February 12, 2004. For more information and/or to volunteer contact **Joyce Townser 816-426-2926**, or visit the KCFEB webpage (listed above).

These above activities and **Diversity Day** (formerly known as **Unity Day**) are **APPROVED** FEB activities.

Unity Day – Unity Day has a new name - **Diversity Day**. The next Diversity Day is scheduled for 23 September 2004.

Lunch and Learn - Lunch and Learn programs are scheduled to be held every other fiscal year. The Lunch and Learn program for the Native American group is planned for November 2004.

Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE):

There are no updates for SAIGE this month.

Many of our NAFEC members are members of SAIGE, if you wish to join SAIGE please contact Jesse James or Les Tate <mailto:ltate@hiwaay.net> – website url:

<http://www.aipc.osmre.gov/SAIGE>

Heart of America Indian Center

The Heart of America Indian Center is in need of office furniture. If your agency has any excess office furniture and would like to donate it, please contact Carolyn King. If you are interesting in volunteering at the HAIC or would like to donate, please contact the HAIC (816) 421-7608 or contact <mailto:ckinghaic@aol.com> .

Committees:

We still welcome members to participate in the various committees. If you are willing to participate please let either Ruby Pippenger, Robin K. Hatfield or Crystal Wallace know.

General:

The four workgroup committees have been formed to address the goal and mission of the Native American Indian Diversity Council. Each committee is to meet monthly outside the business meeting. Committee Chairs are requested to provide a brief synopsis of the status of ongoing committee activities at each NAFEC meeting. The synopsis will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Please meet before the next NAFEC meeting to begin implementing your goals.

1. Native American Programs Resource Book – We will develop a resource book to be used in planning Federal Agencies National Native American Heritage Programs. This will be a compilation of American Indian subject speakers, artists, performers, historians, film artists, curators, and other resources. Book will include names, points of contact, fees, pictures.

Members: Kathy Mathias (Chair), Donna Stone, Tonya Stonham, Larry Thompson, Cindy Dennis-Schappe, Ruby Pippenger, Crystal Wallace and Sheila Egan.

Report: Kathy Mathias presented a copy of the Native American Information and Resources book to the FEB at the end of last calendar year. The response of the FEB was “very positive.” Efforts are now underway to scan the book and its contents onto a CD.

2. American Indian Education Planning Committee – Committee is working with various agencies and parents to investigate student educational program opportunities, to address high dropout rates and to coordinate strategies and plans in order to best encourage Native American students to perform well within the Kansas City School District.

Members: Tom Beaver (Chair), Brenda Ladage, Dohn Farley, Joseph Gray, Tonya Stonham, and Donna Stone

Report: The drop-out rate for Native students is between 40% - 70% nationwide, even though Title VII monies exist to ameliorate the problem. Committee members are working on increasing parental involvement in implementing retention programs in the Kansas City area. Curricula have been created and North Kansas City already has the program. One problem identified by committee members is that the school districts have the funding, but they don't know what to do with it. The goal is to decrease the drop-out rate.

3. Membership Committee – The committee will develop a brochure and/or information pamphlets. Council's purpose, reasons to participate, generate effective recruiting letters,

canvas members for participation, recruiting new members, eliciting management support, and promote management education and understanding of our council's work.

Members: Crystal Wallace (Chair), Kathy Mathias, Tonya Stonham, and Linda Day

Report: Crystal Wallace is currently working on a website for KC NAFEC. This will give us greater membership outreach capacities.

4. Special Events and Public Relations Committee – Coordinate outreach activities and interface with members, other FEB regional councils, and community organizations.

Members: Tonya Stonham (Chair), Kathy Mathias, Larry Thompson, Linda Day, and Crystal Wallace.

Report: Bill Whitcomb reported that the DOJ has been receiving a lot of complaints from locals regarding racial profiling of the Native community. Collaboration and dialogue between local, state and federal governments are needed to address issues particular to Native Americans. NAFEC subcommittee members can assist in helping to sponsor an information forum with the Federal Employees' Council. Nancy Rios reported on her agency's Medicare Training with 8 of the 9 tribes in Region 7 (The Nine Tribes in Region 7 are: Kansas Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Sac & Fox of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Nebraska Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Iowa Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa (Meskwaki Nation)-- a settlement and not a reservation). The topic of urban vs. reservation Native Americans was also addressed. Paul Brown addressed the possibility of a taxpayer outreach program at the HAIC.

Upcoming Events:

Indian Council of Many Nations Winter Pow Wow, February 7, 2004. Pierson Community Center, 1800 S. 55th St., Kansas City, KS. Contact: **Dick Porch, 913-888-1563** or email: rporch@sbcglobal.net.

Grading/ selection of Federal Women's Program Essays at 8:00 a.m. on February 12, 2004. For more information and/or to volunteer contact **Joyce Townser 816-426-2926**, or visit the KCFEB webpage.

Haskell Indian Nations University Commencement Pow Wow - May 14-16, 2004
Grand Entry begins at 7:00 pm at the Haskell Pow Wow Grounds.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Our next scheduled meeting is a combined subcouncil meeting with the Black Federal Employees' Council. It is on **February 6, 2004** at the **IRS, Barkley Training Center, 10551 Barkley, 3d Floor, KCSC-1 Room, Overland Park, KS**. The meeting is scheduled to begin at **1:30 pm**. This meeting **replaces** our regularly scheduled meeting.

Member Attendees:

Bowman, Karen	FMS
Brown, Paul	IRS
Day, Linda C	USPS
Egan, Sheila (retiring)	FDA
Farley, Dohn	DFAS
Gray, Joseph	NPS
Hatfield, Robin K.	FDA
Head, Janet	USDA
Mathias, Kathrin	VA
Moynihan, Jana	HHS/OCR
Pippenger, Ruby	NOAA
Rios, Nancy	CMS
Schappe, Cindy	UNAT
Stone, Donna	USDA-FSA
Stonham, Tonya	DHS
Thierolf, Les	DHHS
Thompson, Larry	USDA-RMA
Wallace, Crystal	NITC-USDA
Wendt, H. Elizabeth	EPA (Alt.)
Whitcomb, Bill	DOJ